

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 5-14, 16, 18 and 19 were pending.

Claims 1 and 7 are amended.

Claim 6 is cancelled.

Claims 2, 5, 8-14, 16, 18 and 19 are as previously presented.

The application now contains claims 1, 2, 5, 7-14, 16, 18 and 19.

Claim 1 is amended to include in line 6 the limitation 'wherein the thickness of the SiO₂ layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm'. Support is found in now cancelled claim 6.

Claim 7 is amended to delete the word "optionally" from step (e). Support is inherent in the claim.

No new matter is added.

Rejections/Objections

Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 13, and 19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Bujard, et. al., US Pat Pub No. US 2005/0287090.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Page 4, paragraph number 9 indicates that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten as an independent claim incorporating the limitations of the intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments above which incorporate the limitations of claim 6 into claim 1 have created such an allowable claim.

Applicants further respectfully submit that rejected claims 2, 10, 13, and 19 all relate either to subsets of the novel pigment of instantly amended claim 1, or compositions comprising the novel pigment of instantly amended claim 1.

Applicants therefore kindly ask that the 35 USC 103(a) rejections of claims 1, 2, 10, 13, and 19 be withdrawn and the claims be found allowable.

Regarding claims 7, a process, and claim 8, the product by said process, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims as written now also contain the limitation from claim 6 that the thickness of the SiO_y layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm. Applicants further point out that none of the steps in claim 7 are optional, the term optionally was deleted from step c in Applicants' previous response, the instant amendments remove the term from step e.

Applicants therefore suggest that the 35 USC 103(a) rejections of claim 7 and 8 are likewise overcome and kindly ask that the 35 USC 103(a) rejections of claims 7 and 8 be withdrawn and the claims be found allowable.

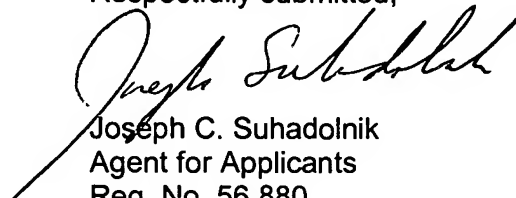
Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 18 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully submit that with the amendments above, claim 1 is now the equivalent of claim 6 written in independent form and is presumably allowable as discussed above. Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 18 all depend from instantly amended claim 1 and therefore no longer depend from a rejected base claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objections have been addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that they be withdrawn and claims 5, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 18 be found allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and rejections have been overcome and kindly ask that they be withdrawn and claims 1, 2, 5, 7-14, 16, 18 and 19 be found allowable. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

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Respectfully submitted,


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